

# **Marine Fueling in Rockport**

Granite Pier Committee

September 13, 2021

## **Facts about marine fueling in Rockport:**

1. There has never been a commercial marine fuel supply on town owned property.
2. The last commercial marine fuel station in Rockport was located on Tuna Wharf on private property.
3. This facility ceased doing business in the early 70's.
4. Rockport has not had marine fuel for sale for almost 50 years.
5. There is no mandate for the town to provide a marine fueling facility.
6. The proposed facility would sell gasoline.
7. Diesel is less flammable than gasoline and can be truck delivered. Commercial fishermen get diesel fuel from the Pigeon Cove Fishermen's Co- Op or by truck delivery at the dock.
8. The CPC provided funding to do a location study for the fueling station.
9. This study determined that Granite Pier would be the best site.
10. The Granite pier committee disputes the findings of this study and is against any marine fueling facility at Granite Pier.
11. The Harbor Masters are opposed to a fuel dock at Granite pier unless the breakwater extension is completed. This is due to the large potential storm surge that can come into the harbor. Since the extension was voted down a few years ago the breakwater is not going to happen in the foreseeable future.
12. The proponent group applied for an additional grant of \$39,000.00 from the CPC to do a financial plan and construction plan for a Marine fueling station at Granite Pier.
13. The town attorney determined that CPC funding could not be used to fund the fueling station because it is a commercial venture.
14. How the fueling station would be funded is unclear.
15. The cost of this facility would involve (2) 2000 gallon fuel tanks above ground (2018 quote \$55,000 per tank)
  - concrete pad for the tanks
  - ground work to support pad and fuel tank
  - catch basin for spill containment
  - security fence around tanks
  - fire suppression system for tanks
  - underground piping from tanks to dock
  - pump at dock
  - fabrication of floating dock and ramp
  - mooring of dock and seawall reinforcement
16. It seems a reasonable estimate that the initial investment to get the marine fueling station built will be somewhere in the neighborhood of \$200,000 to \$600,000. This is not taking into account the \$50,000 for planning and design already proposed.

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17. The ongoing cost of operating would involve personnel with training in safety and fire practices to supervise when the facility is open for business.

- Management of the finances and material ordering for the fuel business
- Insurance for liability at this facility.

18. The facility would operate only 3 to 4 months a year. It seems doubtful that a stand-alone fuel dock could support itself financially in a 3 to 4 month season.

19. It is unclear if these tanks will need to be removed if a major storm threatens and where they would be stored and if fuel will need to be pumped out. This would be yet another cost of operation.

## **Thoughts on a marine fueling station in Rockport:**

1. Does the Town of Rockport need a marine fueling station?
2. Should the town be in the marine fuel business?
2. Does the town need more boat traffic on summer weekends?
3. Would this attract the kind of boaters that would be a plus for the town or would we just become a gas stop for cigarette boats on the way south?
4. Will it improve the quality of life in Rockport?
5. How many people will this actually benefit?
6. There are 450 people on the mooring waiting list so it doesn't seem like the fuel issue is a deterrent.
7. A marine fuel dock is not a community necessity. It will not save any lives. The few people who will benefit already have good lives and large pleasure boats. The town could better spend this amount of money helping people who really need help and fixing things that really need fixing for the benefit of the greater community not a small special interest group.
7. A fuel dock on private property would be a convenience. However, fuel is usually provided at a commercial marina where they provide other services and do not survive on fuel sales alone.
8. In Rockport we are blessed with many things but large, sheltered, natural harbors are not one of them. We do not have a marina because we do not have the available industrial waterfront. There is the potential for this at the Tool Company site. Perhaps, the fuel dock proponents should try and negotiate the inclusion of a marina with a fuel facility as part of the development at the Tool Company.

**WE URGE YOU TO VOTE AGAINST PROCEEDING WITH A TOWN-FUNDED  
FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR A MARINE FUELING STATION IN ROCKPORT.**